
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 197 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY LONGIETTI, BIZZARRO, MILLARD, YOUNGBLOOD, ZABEL,
CALTAGIRONE, MURT, HILL-EVANS, FREEMAN, READSHAW, KORTZ AND
MARKOSEK, APRIL 5, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, APRIL 5, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing the Congress of the United States to return orphan
2 transportation earmarks to the states.

3 WHEREAS, Congress has specifically earmarked highway and mass
4 transit funds for special projects and transportation-related
5 exhibits and research since the 1982 highway reauthorization
6 bill was enacted; and

7 WHEREAS, While certain districts benefit from congressionally
8 directed highway projects and improvements, orphan earmark funds
9 impede projects in other districts and reduce Federal gas tax
10 revenue received by the states; and

11 WHEREAS, Earmarked funding often remains unspent after
12 project completion; and

13 WHEREAS, Earmarked funding may be directed toward nonviable
14 projects; and

15 WHEREAS, In some cases earmarked funding, once secured,
16 cannot be directed toward existing projects having other funding
17 sources; and

1 WHEREAS, Sponsors of orphan earmarks have no authority to
2 redistribute funds; and

3 WHEREAS, An estimated \$13 billion, nearly 1 in 3 highway
4 dollars earmarked since 1991, has been set aside, remaining
5 unspent; and

6 WHEREAS, Federal funding to the states has been reduced by an
7 estimated \$7.5 billion due to orphan earmarks; and

8 WHEREAS, Transportation infrastructure projects addressing
9 structurally deficient highways and bridges in the Commonwealth
10 of Pennsylvania remain unfunded; and

11 WHEREAS, Reduced Federal transportation funding to the
12 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has amounted to \$392 million;
13 therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
15 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the Congress of the
16 United States to return orphan transportation earmarks to the
17 states; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
19 the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to the
20 members of Congress from Pennsylvania.